

## **Amendments to the Abstract:**

**Please replace abstract with the following amendment:**

The present invention provides methods for

- (1) protecting cathodically critical areas of railway axles against corrosion by depositing selectively sacrificial metal films or mounting sacrificial metal components over those critical contact-free areas such as axle fillet, axle groove, bore surface of bearing backing ring and bore surface of bearing seal wear ring;
- (2) protecting cathodically internal surfaces of railway bearings against corrosion, by depositing selectively sacrificial metal films or mounting sacrificial metal components over those contact-free internal surfaces within the bearing assembly;
- (3) protecting critical areas of railway axles against corrosion and impact damages by providing a protective sleeve ~~or seal made of resilient material~~ to the axle fillet, axle dust guard area, sealing the joint between bearing components and the axle, and adding a resilient protection barrier over those critical areas of the axle.

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